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#31

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Art Unit: 1647
Examiner: D. Romeo

Re: U.S. Patent Application No. 09/062,113
Filed: April 17, 1998
Title: Novel Proteins and Methods for Producing the Proteins
Applicants: GOTO *et al.*
Atty. Docket: 16991.012

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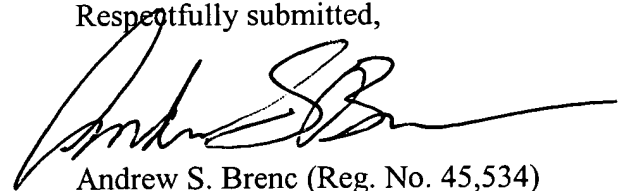
Sir:

**Applicants' Inquiry Concerning Suspension of Action by
the Examiner Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. 1.103 and MPEP 709**

Pursuant to an official communication mailed February 21, 2002 prosecution of the above-referenced application has been suspended.

On August 23, 2002, Applicants submitted an inquiry requesting a status update of this application. To date, a response to Applicants' request has not been received by the undersigned. Therefore, Applicants hereby respectfully request that the Examiner in charge of this case provide a status update to the undersigned as soon as possible.

Respectfully submitted,



Andrew S. Brenc (Reg. No. 45,534)